

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
&
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST**



**RESEARCH ACTIVITY
UNDERTAKEN DURING SEASON 2: 2011**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dr Frank Talty, Center for Irish Partnerships, UMass Lowell
- Victoria Denoon, Center for Irish Partnerships, UMass Lowell
- David McKean, Parish Archivist, St Patrick's Church
- Ed Bell, Senior Archaeologist, Massachusetts Historical Commission
- Joe McNamee and Shelagh Mahoney
- Dan Lynch, Geophysical Surveyor
- David Blackburn, Chief of Cultural Resources and Programs, NPS Lowell
- Rich Lemoine, Environmental Health and Safety, UMass Lowell
- Rev Father Taggart
- Fr Paul Ouellette, Fr Dan Crahan, and Steve McNally
- Walter Hickey, National Archives, Northeast Region
- Oliver Donnelly, Dromore, County Tyrone
- Dr Eileen Murphy, Queen's University Belfast
- Gillian Almond, Queen's University Belfast
- Dr Lynne McKerr, Queen's University Belfast
- Richard Howe, Register of Deeds, Middlesex North
- Professor Chronis Stamatiadis, UMass Lowell
- Dr William Griswold, NPS Lowell
- Dr Stephen Pendry, NPS Lowell
- Peg McAndrews, Irish Cultural Committee
- Ed McNeil and Gary Gosseling, AOH
- Victor Mastone, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Suanna Selby-Crowley, AnthroScience Advisors



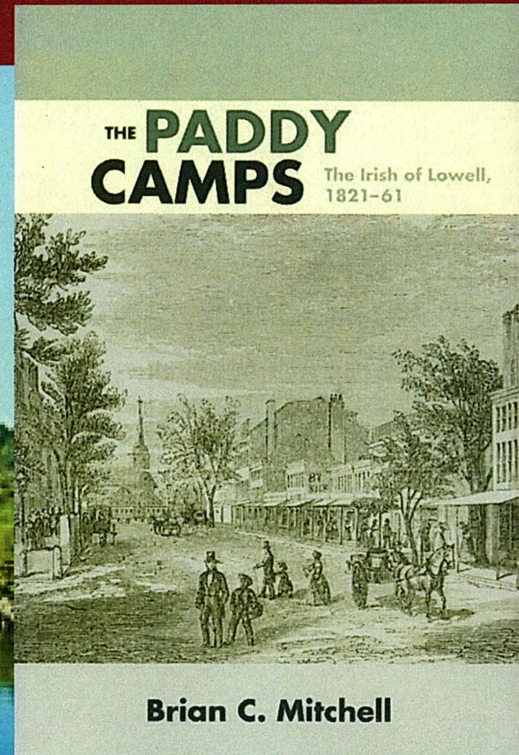
THE IRISH IN LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

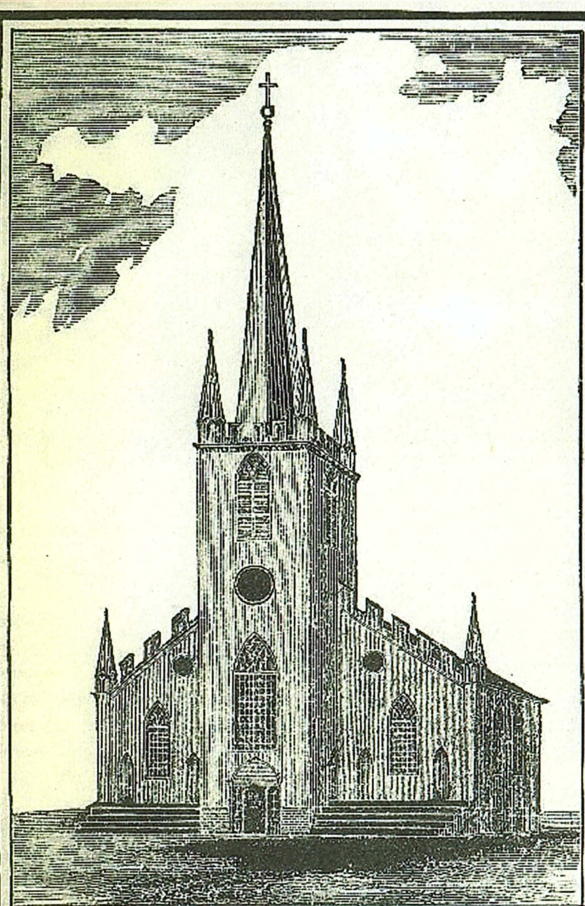


1823: INCORPORATED AS A PLANNED TEXTILE MANUFACTURING CENTRE ON FARMLAND OF EAST CHEMLSFORD BY THE BOSTON ASSOCIATES

1822: CANALS EXCAVATED BY GANGS OF YANKEES, WORKING ALONGSIDE IRISH LABOURERS LED BY HUGH CUMMISKEY AND HIS TEAM OF 30 IRISH WORKERS

AS MORE IRISH EMPLOYED THEY SETTLE IN AN AREA OF LAND – THE ACRE – WHERE BY 1830 THERE IS A GROUP OF 400 IRISH RESIDENT





ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

1st CHURCH
CONSTRUCTED
1830-31

REBUILT IN 1854

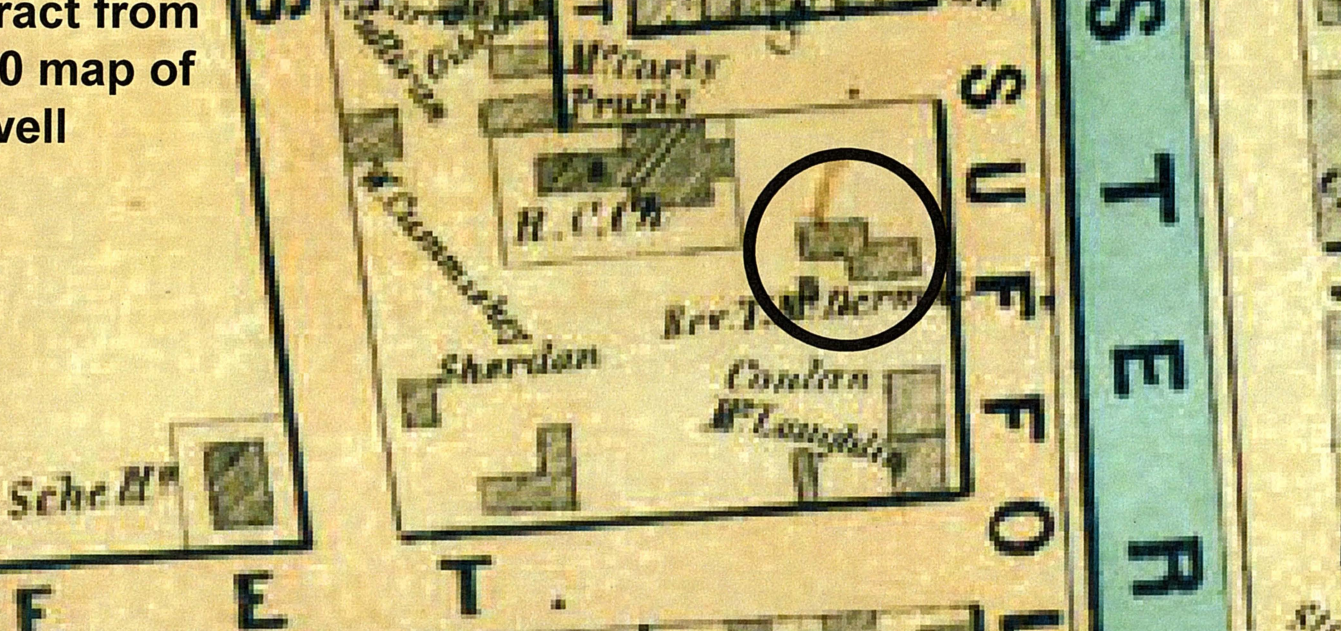
1869: AREA
TO FRONT OF
CHURCH
PURCHASED BY
BISHOP OF
BOSTON

1879: MAP SHOWS
AREA AS LAWN

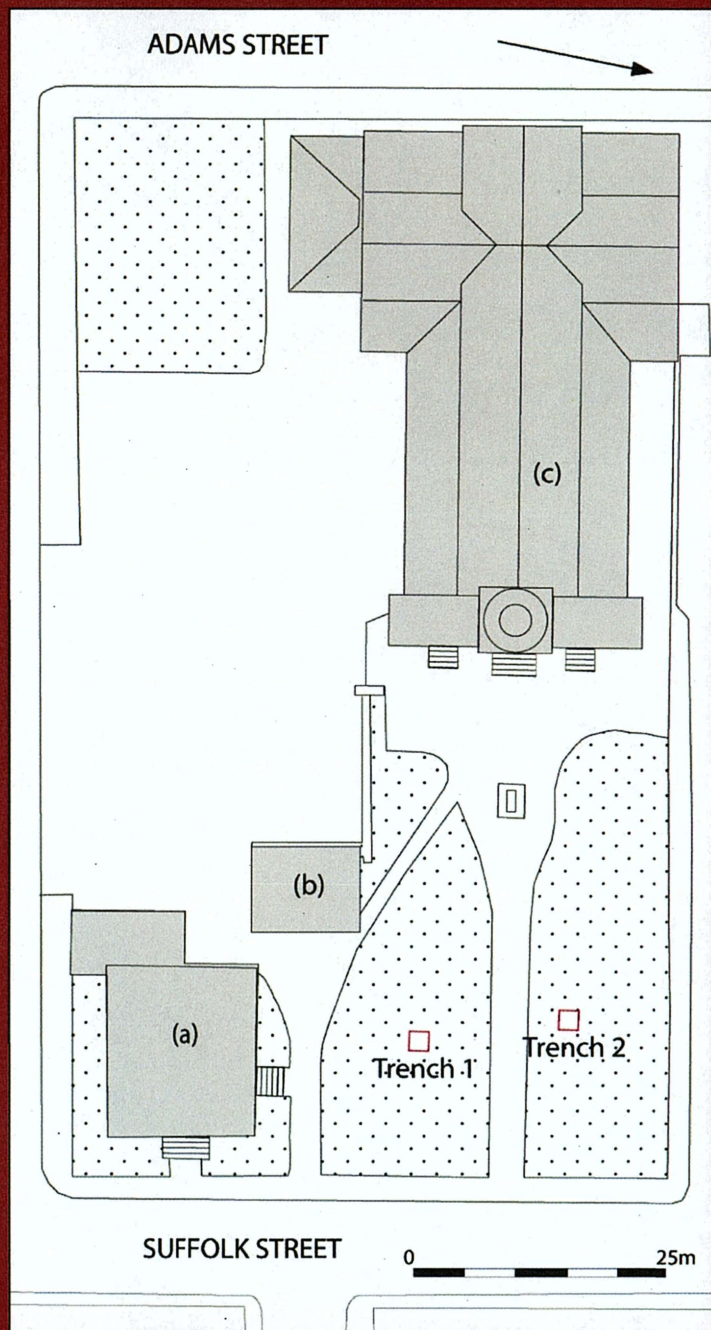
LAND USED FOR
SETTLEMENT
BETWEEN 1822-1869



Extract from
1850 map of
Lowell



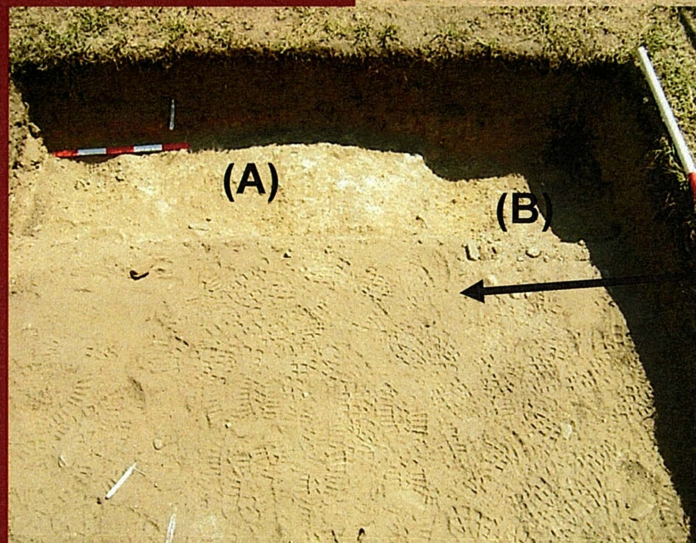
THE 1850 MAP OF LOWELL
SUGGESTED, HOWEVER,
THE ONE-TIME PRESENCE OF
A HOUSE BELONGING TO
“REV McDERMOTT” IN THE
AREA NOW OCCUPIED BY
THE CHURCH LAWN



RECONNAISSANCE EXCAVATION SEASON 1: 16th-20th AUGUST 2010

THE LAWN AT THE FRONT OF ST PATRICK'S

TWO TRENCHES (2m X 2m) TO INVESTIGATE
WHAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE – IF ANY –
SURVIVED



TRENCH 1

The excavation revealed a compacted clay surface, Context 110, labelled (A), associated with a foundation trench, Context 109, labelled (B)

Interpretation: (A) is a beaten clay floor, and (B) is the foundation trench for a sill-beam or for a foundation wall supporting the sill-beam of a timber house



TRENCH 2

The excavation exposed a level compact stony surface (Context 204) that extended across the area under investigation

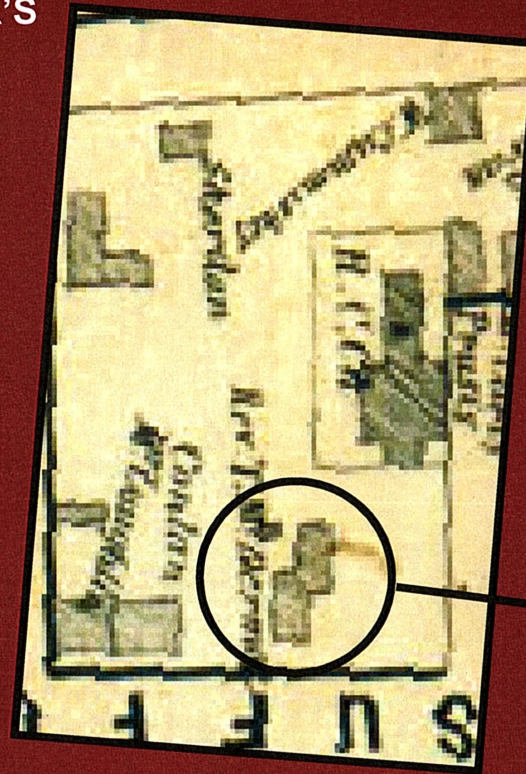
Interpretation: This is a yard associated with the house located in Trench 1

REVEREND McDERMOTT'S HOUSE

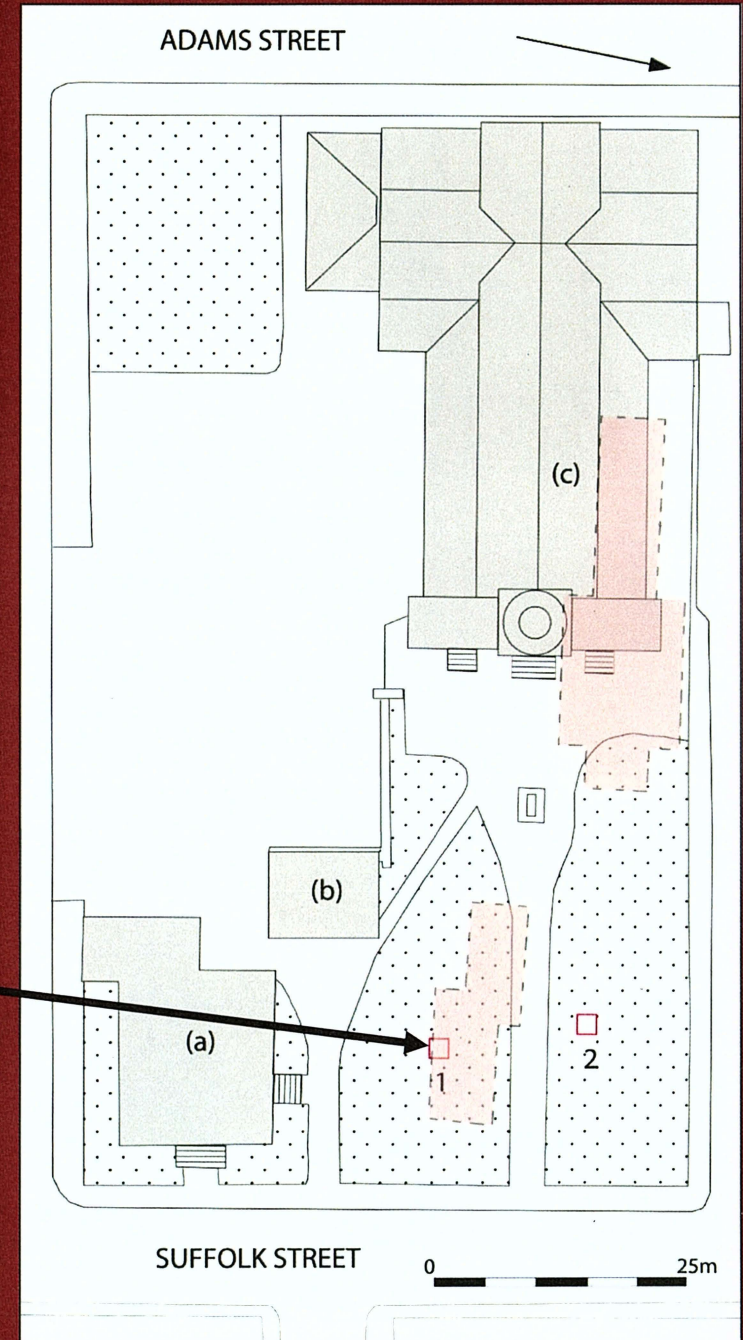
CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE INDICATES TRENCH 1 IS LOCATED OVER THE SOUTHERN SIDE-WALL OF THE HOUSE NOTED ON THE 1850 MAP AS THE PROPERTY OF Fr McDERMOTT, PARISH PRIEST AT ST MARY'S. THE PLOT HAD BEEN PURCHASED BY HIM IN 1847.

WHEN THE NEW ST PATRICK'S IS OPENED IN 1854 THE NEWSPAPERS REPORT CONTROVERSY ABOUT Fr McDERMOTT'S HOUSE BLOCKING THE VIEW FROM SUFFOLK STREET. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A "SHANTY" AND "OLD HOUSE" WITH "SEVERAL FAMILIES IN IT"

Fr McDERMOTT DIES IN 1862 AND THE BISHOP FINALLY PURCHASES THE PLOT IN 1869. AFTER WHICH THE SITE IS LAID OUT AS A LAWN



THE POSSIBLE HOUSE ENCOUNTERED IN TRENCH 1 MAY THEREFORE DATE TO PERIOD BETWEEN 1847 AND 1869





RESEARCH VISIT DURING IRISH CULTURAL WEEK

6th March to 11th March 2011

RESEARCHING PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN LOWELL AND THE REPORTS ARCHIVED AT THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION IN BOSTON

LECTURES ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH AS PART OF THE ICW PROGRAMME



ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY, LOWELL



ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY ESTABLISHED 1832 BESIDE OLD ENGLISH CEMETERY. DAVID McKEAN HAS COMPILED A CATALOGUE OF 10,000 DEATH RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1832 to 1880, AND A CATALOGUE OF 500 GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS

PLOT 1 GRAVESTONES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. LOCAL YANKEE STONE-CUTTERS (eg: BENJAMIN DAY) USING FASHIONABLE CLASSICAL SYMBOLS (THE URN AND THE WILLOW) ON THEIR STONES

THE FIRST GENERATION IRISH IN LOWELL USE THE STONES BUT GET THE STONE-CUTTERS TO ADAPT AND MODIFY THEM WITH:

- (a) ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM
(The Cross with the IHS monogram)
- (b) IRISH SYMBOLISM
(Shamrocks)
- (c) STATEMENTS ON PLACE OF ORIGIN IN IRELAND

RESEARCH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF ETHNICITY, PROCESSES OF CULTURAL ASSIMILATION, AND THE MAKING OF IRISH-AMERICA



**DAVID McKEAN, DR EILEEN MURPHY,
& DR LYNNE McKERR**

**CEMETERY SURVEY
14th April to 19th April 2011**





THE KILSKERRY CONNECTION

Hugh Cummiskey from the Parish of Kils Kerry in County Tyrone

Two gravestones – McCusker and McQuaid – for individuals also from this parish in Tyrone

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

To the Honourable the Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston,
holden at Boston, within and for the County of Suffolk, on the first Monday
of *May* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and
twenty three

RESPECTFULLY represents *Samuel Murray*
of Boston aforesaid, *husbandman* that he was born at *the County*
of Tyrone at Mussey

in the *United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland* on or about
the *twelfth* day of *August* in the year *seventeen*
hundred and *seventy six* and is now about *thirty two* years of age;
that he arrived at *Boston*

WALTER HICKEY AND DAVID
MCKEAN



SAMUEL MURRAY (1796-1835): TOWNLAND OF ROSCAVEY, NEAR FINTONA, COUNTY TYRONE, ABOUT 10 MILES TO THE EAST OF DROMORE. ALSO SWORN IN AS A LOWELL CONSTABLE ALONG WITH HUGH CUMMISKEY IN 1834

Samuel A. Coburn Town Clerk.

Middlesex ss March 4 " 1834
then personally appeared Joseph Parker. Amos Withers
Hugh Cummiskey. Joseph G. Wyatt. Mide Spaulding. Samuel Murray
John Mosier. Zachus Shed. and made solemn oath that they would
faithfully perform the duties of Constable for the ensuing year
before me
Samuel A. Coburn Town Clerk.

MAR 1834
1220
Constables

Lowell Compiler 7 June 1833

TROUBLE IN THE WIGWAM.

A fracas of a singular nature took place yesterday in Fenwick Street, near the Catholic Chapel. The inmates of two buildings, belonging to the genus ten-footers, were summarily ejected by the civil power. The occupants had a lease of the land on which the buildings were erected for ten years; the land however was mortgaged; the term had expired, and by a judgment rendered at the last term of the Supreme Court, the estate had changed owners. The legal proprietors wished to oust the occupants, with a view to remove the buildings, and a precept to that effect was put into the hands of the High Sheriff. Mr. Varnum with his accustomed promptitude proceeded to execute his duty, but the inmates, consisting of one hundred and twenty-five Irish, of different ages and sexes, were obstinately bent on remaining in their dwellings. One curly-pated fellow said, By "J—— if you come here to trouble us; you may as well bring your coffins along wid you." Assistance was procured and the rooms were soon stripped of their furniture, though not without considerable opposition. But when an attempt was made to clear the houses of the inmates, it was found a task of no little difficulty—and the Sheriff in outward appearance soon resembled Joseph, when with a *spencer*, he made his escape from Potiphar's better half! His *posse* however was soon assembled, and after a great deal of struggling, kicking, biting, and howling, the poor Paddies were ejected by force of arms!

RIOUS. On Friday night last, in consequence of the excitement produced by the ejection mentioned in our last, mobs collected in Lowell street, and evinced symptoms of a turbulent nature. Windows were broken, and some black eyes and bloody noses were exchanged.—One circumstance occurred, which by exasperating the mob, had nearly produced results of a fatal tendency. During the tumult, a musket loaded with slugs, was fired from the window of a house upon the mob, and Mr Cumiskey a Constable, who was laudably engaged in endeavoring to quell the disturbance, was wounded in the hand and arm; another person was also slightly wounded. A musket was immediately after fired by the Irish, but no person was injured.

On Saturday evening, owing to the large collections of people, much mischief was apprehended. Sundry preparatory measures were adopted by the Police, to quell any disturbances, that might arise—but we are happy to state that there were no alarming results.

GILLIAN ALMOND'S ONGOING HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE CUMMISKEYS IN CROSSAN

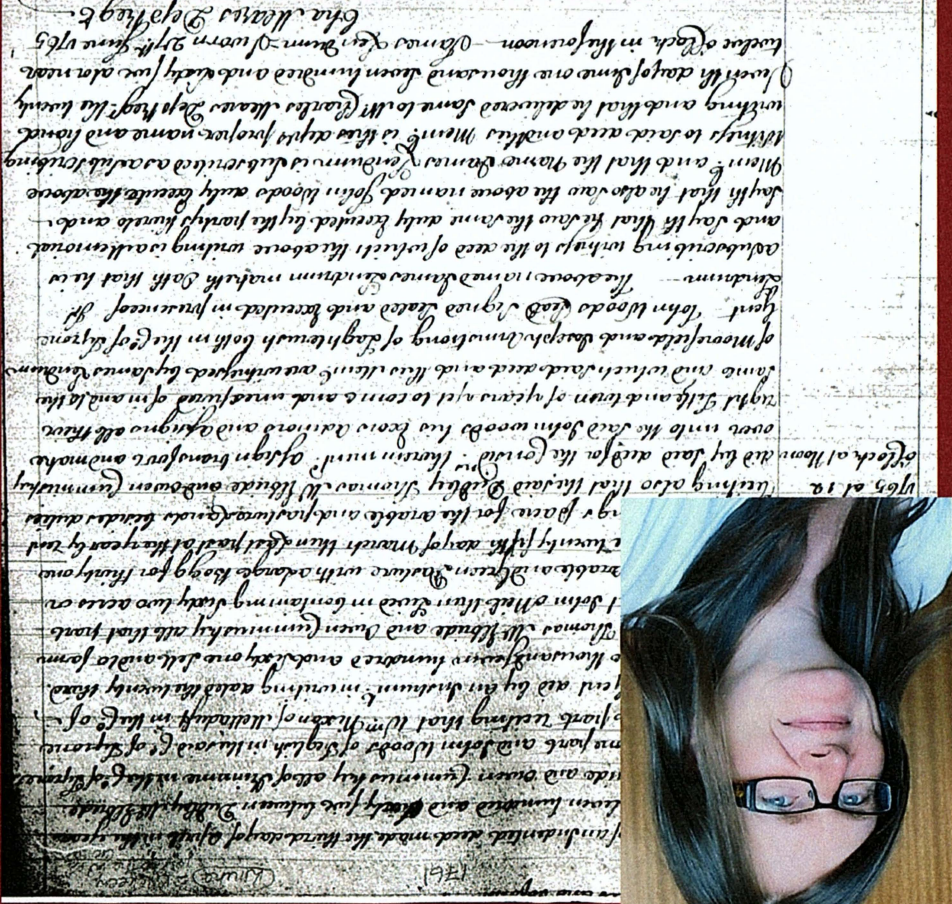
1765 DEED BETWEEN DUDLEY AND THOMAS McELBRIDE AND OWEN CUMMUSKY, FARMERS, WITH JOHN WOODS

DOCUMENT STATES THAT IN 1761 WILLIAM NIXON HAD LET THE THREE MEN 60 ACRES OF LAND IN CROSSAN ON A 31 YEAR LEASE ON LAND THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN HELD BY JOHN O'NEIL

HEIGHT OF THE PENAL LAWS AND CONDITIONS OF THE LEASE INDICATE FOR LONGER THAN 31 YEARS, SO THE MEN ARE CATHOLICS. NOW, FOUR YEARS LATER, IN 1765 THEY ARE TRANSFERRING THE LEASE TO JOHN WOODS. WHAT IS GOING ON?

18th-CENTURY "BILLS OF DISCOVERY" ISSUED AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICS HOLDING LAND TERMS FORBIDDEN UNDER THE PENAL LAWS. THE PROTESTANT FILING THE BILL WAS ABLE TO CLAIM THE LANDS AFFECTED FOR THEMSELF.

IN SOME CASES, HOWEVER, THE BILL WAS FILED BY A PROTESTANT FRIEND OF THE CATHOLIC HAPPENED HERE, GIVEN THAT THE CUMMISKEYS WERE STILL RESIDING AT CROSSAN THROUGHOUT THE 19th-CENTURY UNTIL THE 1870S.



THE CUMMISKEY HOMESTEAD, CROSSAN, COUNTY TYRONE



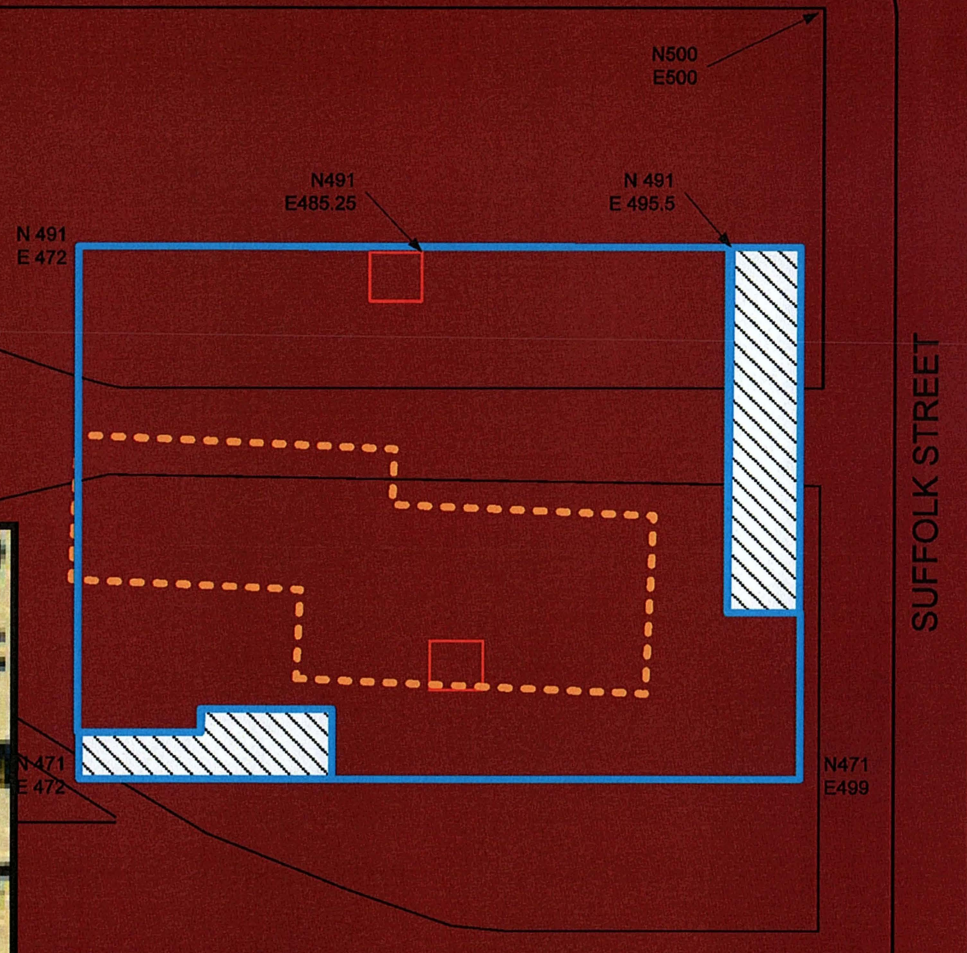
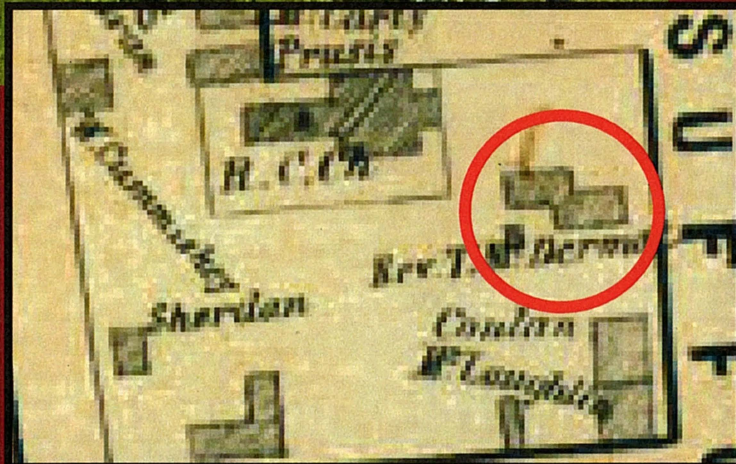
LANDOWNER, OLIVER DONNELLY, HAS GIVEN PERMISSION FOR RECONNAISSANCE EXCAVATION FROM 22nd AUGUST TO 26th AUGUST 2011, WITH THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIMENSION OF THE PROGRAM NOW COMING TO FRUITION. THE CREW FROM THE SEASON 2 EXCAVATION AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH IN LOWELL WILL NOW EXCAVATE TOGETHER IN COUNTY TYRONE



DAN LYNCH, GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYOR

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE AREA WHERE
Fr McDERMOTT'S HOUSE IS NOTED ON THE 1850 MAP

4th June 2011



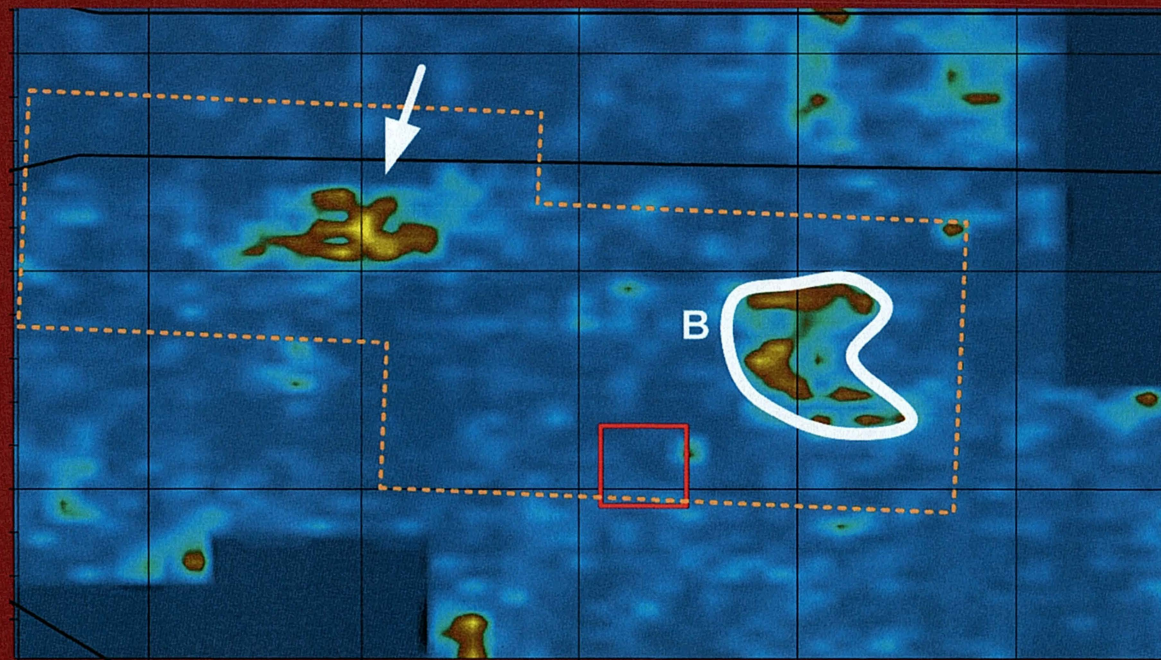
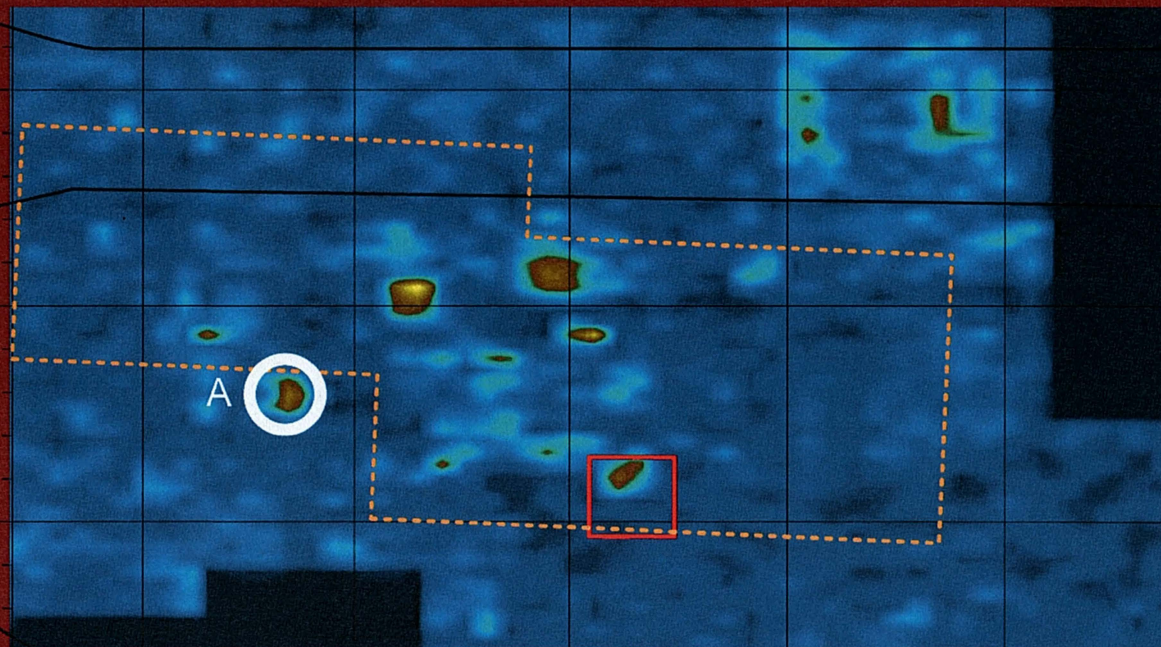
THE RESULTS

ANOMALY A: SIGNATURE OF SMALL HYPERBOLIC ANOMALIES TYPICAL OF RUBBLE AND BRICK CHIMNEY FALL

SUGGESTS THAT THIS MAY BE THE LOCATION OF THE FIREPLACE ASSOCIATED WITH McDERMOTT'S HOUSE

ANOMALY B: VERY STRONG REFLECTOR TYPICAL OF BURIED SURFACE.

CONFORMS WITH THE DISCOVERY OF THE FLOOR REVEALED IN TRENCH 1 DURING SEASON 1 EXCAVATION, AUGUST 2010



THE SEASON 2 EXCAVATION IN LOWELL!

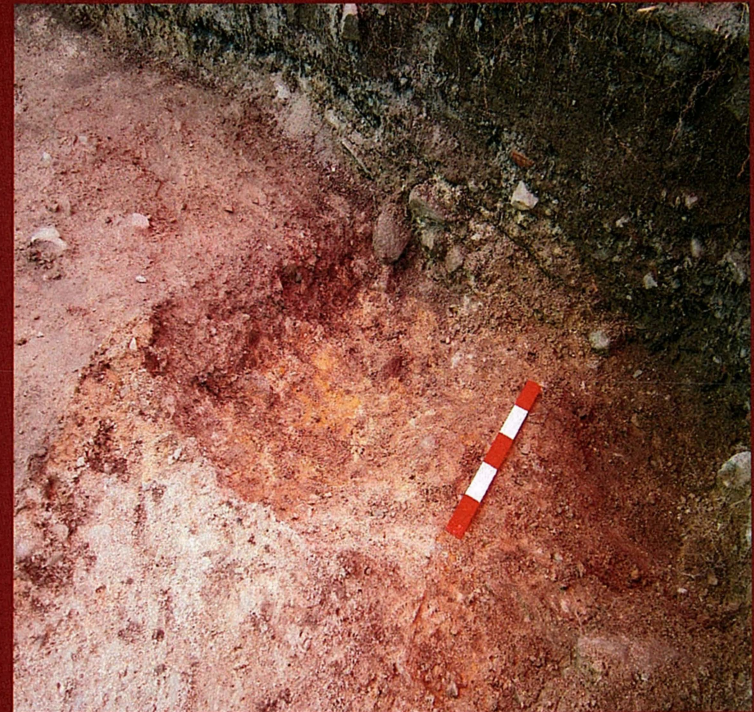


OBJECTIVES:

1. COMPLETION OF EXCAVATION OF TRENCH 1
2. INVESTIGATION OF ANOMALY A (TRENCH 3)



TRENCH 1



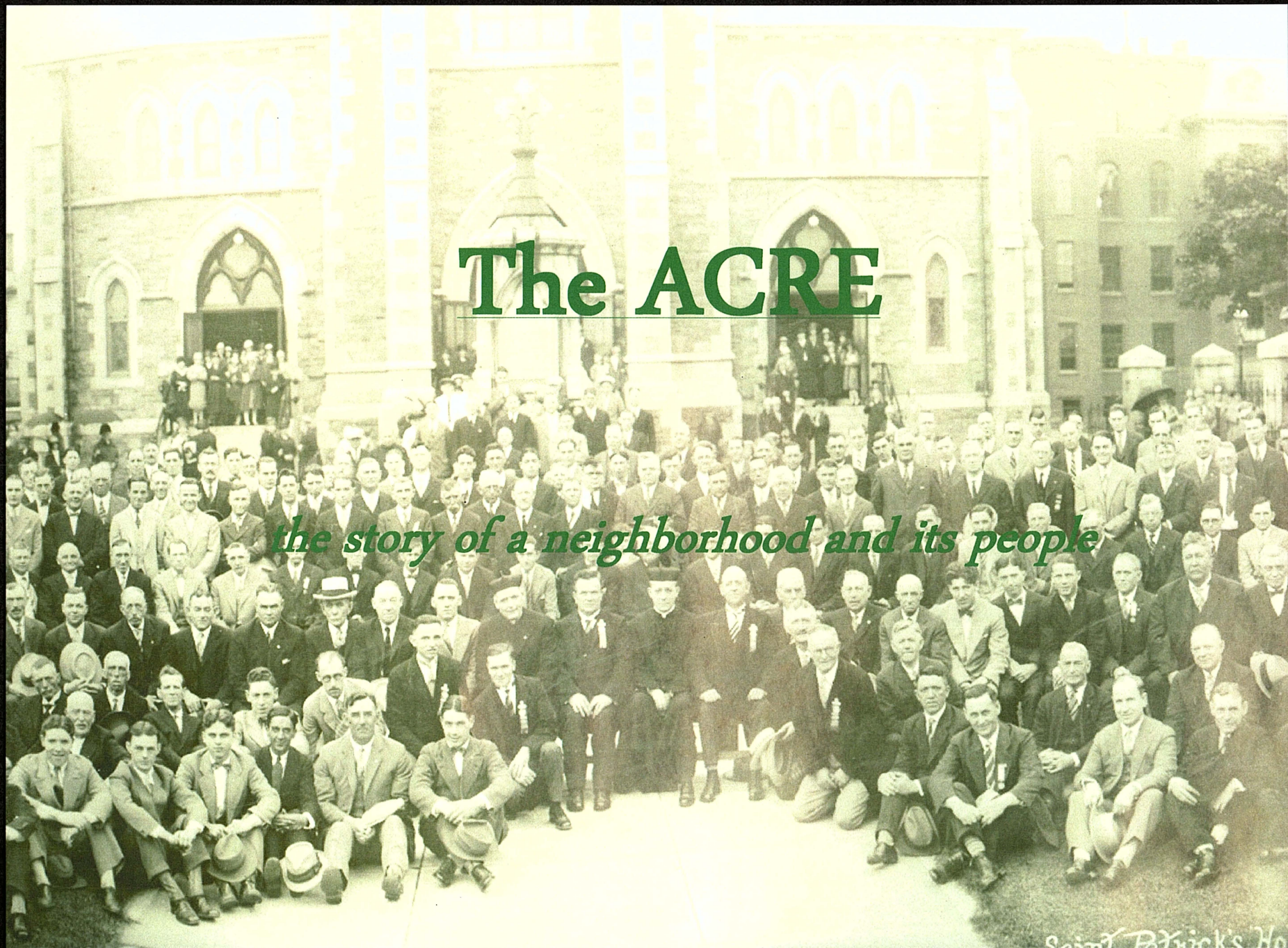
TRENCH 3





The ACRE

the story of a neighborhood and its people



Saint Patrick's Hall

New Dublin



"In the suburbs of Lowell, within a few rods of the canals, is a settlement, called by some, New Dublin, which occupies rather more than an acre of ground. It contains a population of not far from 500 Irish, who dwell in about 100 cabins from 7 to 10 feet in height, built of slabs and rough boards; a fire-place made of stone, in one end, topped out with two or three flour barrels or lime casks. In a central situation is a school house, built in the same style as the dwelling-houses, turfed up to the eaves with a window in one end, and small holes in two sides for the admission of air and light. In this room are collected together perhaps 150 children."

Portsmouth N.H. Journal, 1831

The Irish Came to Lowell, Panas & Quinn

1790s – 1810s



Small group of Irish living in Chelmsford work in glass factory.
The Pawtucket Canal transports goods around falls. Soon replaced by Middlesex Canal.

1821



Merrimack Manufacturing opens.

Kirk Boott needs power from river brought to new mill sites.

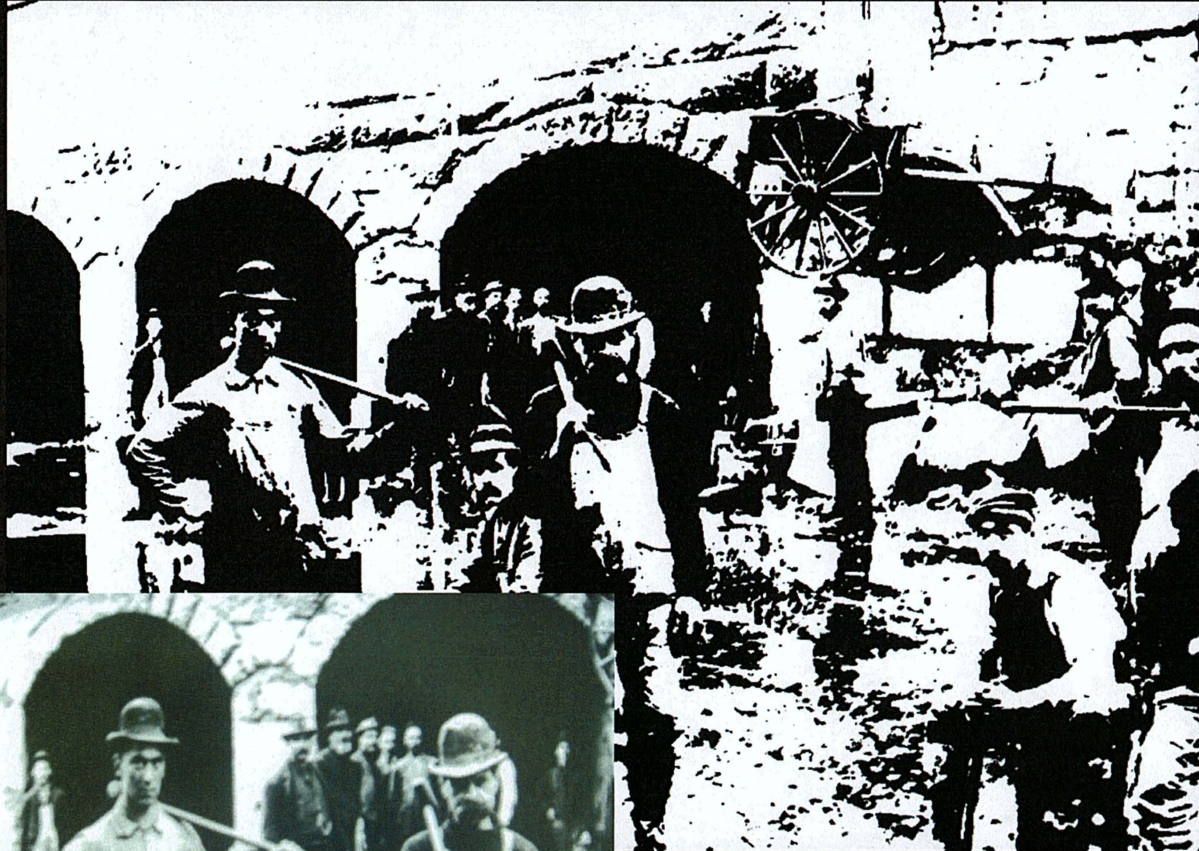
Collection of the Lowell Historical Society

1821



Hugh Cummiskey and 30 Irish laborers arrive from Charlestown and contract to widen and deepen the canals.

The WORKERS



Irish workers take on the laborious and dangerous job of canal work. Deaths by crushing or drowning are common.



Settlement



The Irish Came to Lowell, Panas & Quinn

When the canals were being dug a large number of citizens of the Green Isle were brought here for that work. On what was called "The Acre", there stood an Irish village, with the real Irish cabins and shanties, built of boards, sods and mud—such as can be seen in Ballyshannon, if any of the Lowell people ever happen to go there. Outside were the chimneys, built in a half circle, of paving stone, topped out with flour-barrels, for the smoke and ventilation.

Recollection of George Hedrick, 1865.

Settlement

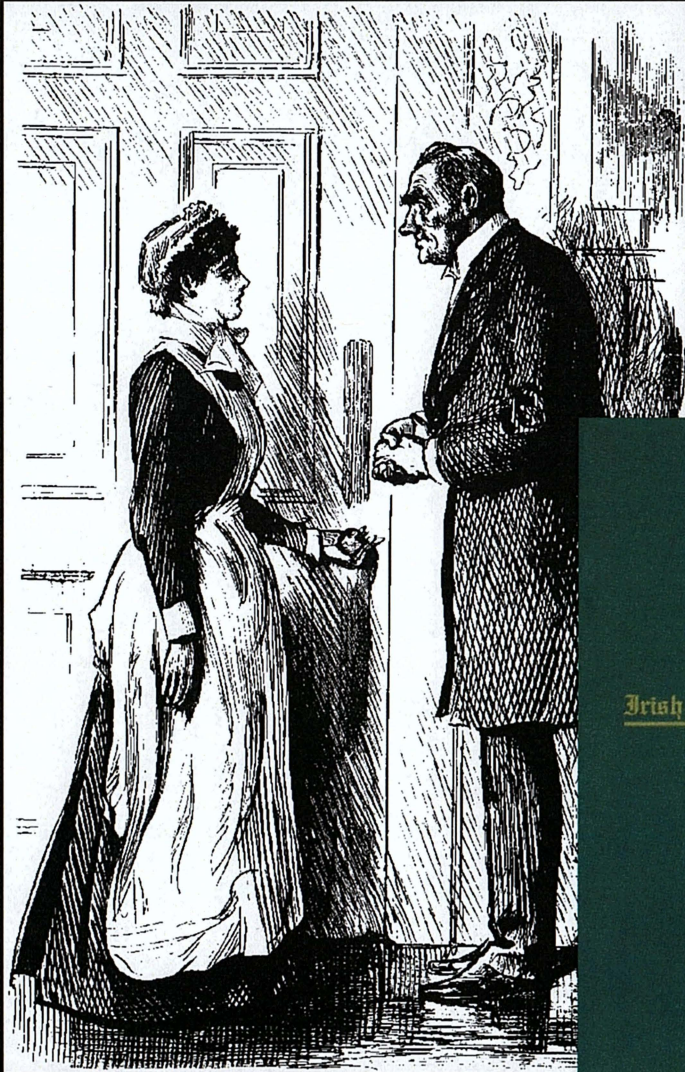


The Irish Came to Lowell, Panas & Quinn

Some of the first [Irish] settlers shared their shanties with their swine; but ere long a great collection of piggeries was formed behind the shanties, and a peremptory standing order was issued "Pigs to the rear." That order was generally obeyed, but not all at once. There was a pig-headed, contrary-minded minority that resented and resisted this "Saxon innovation," and that resolved, in hog Latin, stare semper super antiquas vias, to stand forever in the ancient ways. Dennis Crowley was the first Kelt in Lowell who applied whitewash to his shanty; Timothy Ford was the first who built for himself a frame house and painted it; Nicholas Fitzpatrick was the second; and the practice soon became common.

Reminiscence of Charles Crowley, 1881.

Settlement

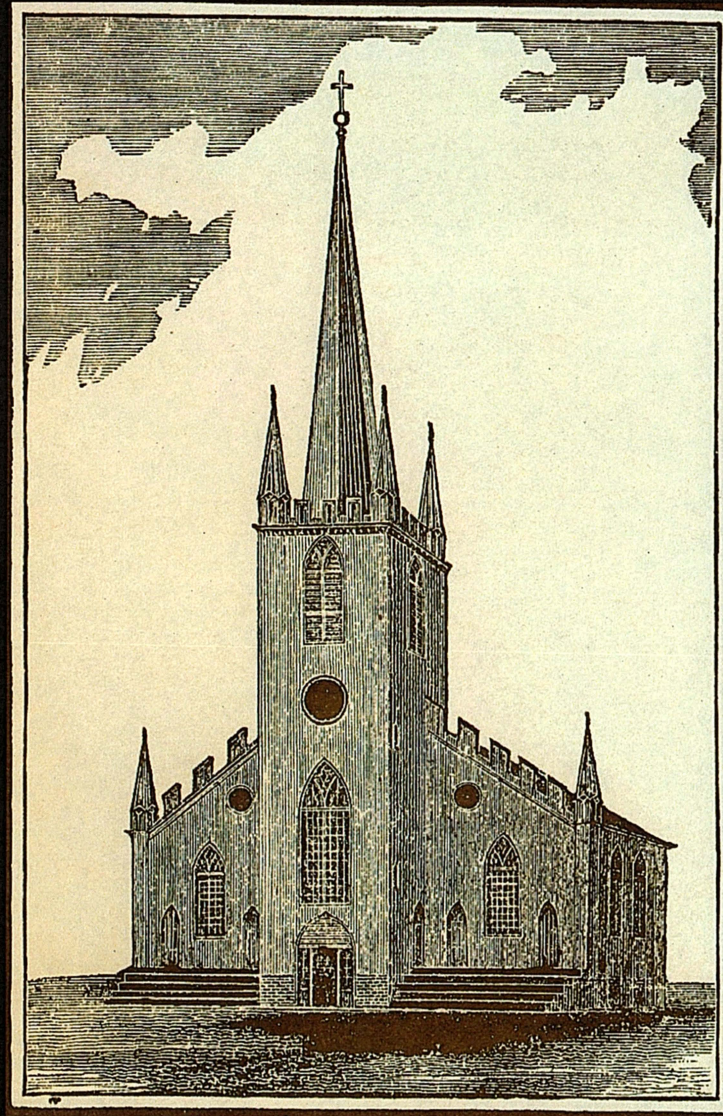


Irish Catholic Genesis of Lowell

Boott had been sorely perplexed at the reports of week-end spats and fights among his Irish employees who lived on the "Acre." One evening at supper, according to tradition, Boott asked his Irish housekeeper: "What is the matter with those Irish countrymen of yours up in the Camps, Mrs. Winters? Why are they always quarreling and raising disturbances?" And his housekeeper is said to have replied: "Well, Mr. Boott, those countrymen of mine will continue to fight and drink and be bothersome until they have a priest to steady them. What they want more than anything else is a priest and a church!" Some few weeks later, probably as the result of this conversation,

Irish Catholic Genesis of Lowell, O'Dwyer

St. Patrick's



1831


Conflict

THE MERCURY.
LOWELL, MAY 28, 1831.

THE YANKEE AND PADDY QUARREL.—The distant newspapers contain wonderful accounts of the late "riot" in this town. Nearly all the reports that come in from a distance, agree that one, or more of those engaged were killed.—None, however, lost their life; and but few were slightly wounded. The quarrel originated in a very trifling circumstance: and would

Life in the Acre



<p>Bakers</p> <p>P. H. DALEY PROVISION DEALER 179 Broadway</p>	<p>West Indies, Dry Good</p> <p>JOHN P. CURLEY Dealer in Pork, Mutton, Lamb, Poultry, Vegetables, Canned Goods, Etc. COR. SALEM AND ADAMS STREETS</p>	<p>Shoemaker</p> <p>Lonergan's "Beaute" \$2.00 Shoe for Ladies</p>  <p>Buy your next Pair of Shoes of JOHN J. LONERGAN 225 DUTTON STREET, LOWELL</p>
<p>Housekeepers</p> <p>Golden Corn Cakes E. J. ... MANUFACTURER</p>	<p>Hat Maker</p> <p>K. L. MARRIN CO. Dealer in DRY AND FANCY GOODS 145 Broadway St., Lowell</p>	<p>Grocer</p> <p>A. S. McNABB Dealer in FANCY GOODS and NOTIONS 236 BROADWAY</p>
<p>Clergy</p> <p>LOWELL CADET BAND JOHN J. GIBBS, Leader 145 Cross Street WILLIAM LOWELL ... 2 Rockdale Ave. MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS</p>	<p>Teacher</p> <p>CHARLES A. CARON ...Baker... 236 BROADWAY LOWELL, MASS. JOSEPH HARVEY Plumber, Steam and Gas Fitter 101 South Street, Lowell</p>	<p>Operative</p> <p>FRANK J. MCCARTHY ...GROCER... NO. 258 ADAMS STREET</p>
<p>Widow</p> <p>H. H. Wilder & Co. 29-31 MARKET ST. LOWELL, MASS.</p>	<p>Book Dealer</p> <p>DALY'S WHITE PINE COUGH SYRUP A Sure and Speedy Cure for Coughs, Croup, Whooping Cough, and Diseases of Throat and Lungs Prepared by C. A. DALY 236 BROADWAY</p>	<p>Blacksmith</p> <p>General Jobbing and Contracting Store and Office Work Dry Air Refrigerators Shop at 101 Market Street, Lowell</p>